

**REMARKS**

In response to Election/Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect Group III, original claim 10, drawn to a composition comprising hemoglobin and a stabilizing agent.

At this time, Applicants have canceled all original claims and have rewritten claim 10 as new generic claim 13. Remaining claims have been added based on the original claims.

With respect to the election requirement, Applicants elect cysteine as a species compound. All claims read on the elected species.

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Applicants note that the Examiner will consider additional species once a generic claim is allowable.

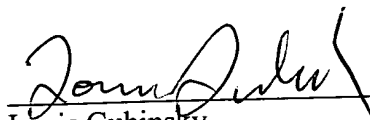
An office action on the merits is requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. APPLN. NO. 10/018,222

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: July 17, 2003